

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A computer system requiring input of a password on startup, comprising:
 - an on-screen keyboard display division for displaying an on-screen keyboard having a predetermined key layout on a display screen;
 - a keyboard type determination division for determining the key layout of said on-screen keyboard displayed on said on-screen keyboard display division; and
 - a password checking division for processing a password inputted by pointing to said on-screen keyboard displayed on said on-screen keyboard display division.
2. The computer system as set forth in Claim 1,
 - wherein said keyboard type determination division determines a type of the key layout of the keyboard mounted on the system, and
 - renders said key layout as the key layout of said on-screen keyboard displayed on said on-screen keyboard display division.

3. The computer system as set forth in Claim 2,

wherein said keyboard type determination division prompts a user to press a predetermined key placed in a position unique to the key layout of the keyboard mounted on the system, and

determines the type of the key layout of said keyboard based on the position of the pressed key.

4. A computer system, comprising:

a display device having a touch panel function and displaying an on-screen keyboard used for input of a password;

memory storing data of said on-screen keyboard; and

a CPU for processing a password inputted by using said on-screen keyboard,

wherein said touch panel, displays said on-screen keyboard based on the data read from said memory at the time of starting up a system.

1 5. The computer system as set forth in Claim 4 further comprising a mechanical
2 keyboard apart from the on-screen keyboard displayed on said display device,
3 wherein said on-screen keyboard displayed on said touch panel has a key layout of the
4 same type as said keyboard.

1 6. The computer as system set forth in Claim 4, wherein said CPU makes an input signal
2 from the on-screen keyboard displayed on said touch panel emulate an input signal by
key entry so as to process an inputted password.

1 7. The computer system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said memory is a read only
2 memory storing data of said on-screen keyboard as well as a program initially read on
3 startup.

1 8. A computer system having as input devices a display device having a touch panel
2 function and a mechanical keyboard,
3 wherein said keyboard is concealable while not in use, and
4 at the time of starting up the system, inputs a password by using the touch panel function
5 of said display device without showing said keyboard.

6 9. The computer system as set forth in Claim 8,
7 wherein said display device is a flat panel display device capable of, as a concealer of said
keyboard, covering the keyboard by positioning it on the keyboard with its back face
facing said keyboard, and
at the time of starting up the system, inputs a password by using the touch panel function
of said display device without moving said display device from its position on said
keyboard.

1 10. A method of generating an on-screen keyboard displayed on the display device as an
2 input device for a computer system, comprising the steps of:

3 prompting a user to press a predetermined key placed in a position unique to the key
4 layout of the keyboard of the keys of the keyboard provided for said computer system;

5 identifying the type of the key layout of said keyboard based on the position of the
6 pressed key; and

7 generating an on-screen keyboard having a key layout of the same type as said keyboard
8 according to the results of identifying the type of said key layout.

9 11. The method of generating an on-screen keyboard as set forth in Claim 10,

10 wherein said step of prompting a user to press a key comprises a step of presenting to
11 the user a message prompting to press a Z key on said keyboard, and

12 said step of identifying the type of the key layout comprises a step of identifying the type
13 of the key layout of the keyboard based on the position of the pressed Z key.

1 12. The method of generating an on-screen keyboard as set forth in Claim 10, wherein
2 said step of identifying the type of the key layout of the keyboard comprises a step of
3 determining the position of the pressed key based on scan code associated with the
4 position of the pressed key.

1 13. A method of checking a power-on-password on computer system startup, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 displaying an on-screen keyboard on a touch panel doubling as a display device; and

4 checking the password inputted by pointing to said on-screen keyboard against a
5 predetermined proper password.

6 14. The method of checking a power-on-password as set forth in Claim 13,

2 wherein said step of displaying the on-screen keyboard, comprising the steps of:

3 reading data of the on-screen keyboard together with a program initially read on startup
4 from a read only memory; and

5 generating the on-screen keyboard based on the read data to display the on-screen
6 keyboard on said touch panel.

1 15. A memory storing a program for controlling computer processing,

2 wherein said program stored in said memory makes said computer execute the processes
3 of:

4 prompting a user to press a predetermined key placed in a position unique to the key
5 layout of the keyboard of the keys of the keyboard provided for said computer;
6 identifying the type of the key layout of said keyboard based on the position of the
7 pressed key; and

8 generating an on-screen keyboard having a key layout of the same type as said keyboard
9 according to the results of identifying the type of said key layout.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16 16. The memory as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said memory is a read only memory
17 storing a program initially read at the time of starting up said computer.

1 17. A memory storing a program for controlling computer processing, wherein said program
2 stored in said memory makes said computer execute the processes of:

3 displaying an on-screen keyboard on a touch panel doubling as a display device; and

4 checking a password inputted by pointing to said on-screen keyboard against a
5 predetermined proper password.

18. The memory as set forth in Claim 17, comprising a read only memory storing a program
initially read at the time of starting up said computer.